

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Catholic Charities USA

Application ID: 14ND156827

Program Name: CCUSA AmeriCorps Peer Navigators

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

#### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

##### Strengths:

The applicant presents a convincing case for the need for peer case management services for their target group, veterans and military family members (VMF), to address the medical, mental health and social impacts of military deployments.

The applicant provides data from approximately three sources, indicating the widespread extent of the identified problems across the veteran population as a whole.

The applicant also provides data regarding the veteran population in the various geographic areas to be served by their intervention.

The narrative identified 12 agencies in 15 locations in 10 states that had the capacity to serve the identified population.

The need addressed the high number of VMF that have difficulties accessing community-based resources.

The need, as identified in the narrative, was also substantiated by Department of Defense and other relevant studies.

The applicant utilized data to show the numbers of VMF within the designated communities.

The applicant presents compelling data to demonstrate the issues facing VMF at a national level.

The applicant provides compelling evidence for the need of peer case management services to help veterans and their family's access services. These services include interventions that help veterans reintegrate into their families.

The applicant provides extensive data in support of the need and extent of problems affecting veterans and their

families in the targeted areas of the proposed project. The applicant's data includes a detailed description of the complexities associated with the demographics of the target population.

The applicant's theory of change reflects a logical relationship among inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes.

The studies, cited by the narrative, indicated that peer support programs would be better accepted and more likely to be successful with the program's population.

The narrative identified agencies within specified communities that have a proven track record for successfully working with VMF.

The applicant detailed a specific duration and dosage for each intervention which would provide strong guidelines for those implementing the services.

The applicant's data aligns logically with inputs, outputs and measurable outcomes by tapping into the leadership skills of veterans supporting each other in their own communities.

The applicant's narrative indicated substantial achievements.

The applicant agency has a long history of successfully providing grant-funded services including counseling and education services, budgeting services, mentoring, and working with diverse populations.

The applicant has extensive data in the narrative to support the needs of veterans returning from foreign wars and providing them with strategies to reengage into their families and their community.

The studies, cited by the narrative, indicated that peer support programs would be better accepted and more likely to be successful with the program's population.

The narrative identified agencies within specified communities that have a proven track record for successfully working with VMF.

The applicant detailed a specific duration and dosage for each intervention which would provide strong guidelines for those implementing the services.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant does not provide data that describes the impact of deployment on the specific communities that are to receive their intervention.

The U.S. Census report cited for current population statistics is not dated.

The applicant's evidence does not provide sufficient data to support claims.

The applicant states that the measurements for outcomes for short-term change are to be obtained from case notes

and summaries, but does not explain how these documents will provide any such measurements.

The applicant indicated a substantial caseload for each case manager.

The applicant did not clearly indicate training that would be sufficient to provide case managers without degrees in social work or related services the abilities to meet the needs of the identified population.

The applicant's use of preliminary studies suggests a need for more research before such findings could be conclusive.

The applicant did not provide any evidence of successful past performance providing any service related to those described in this application.

The applicant does not include compelling data on past experiences for this particular project.